

# *Documents on Diplomacy: Exercises*

## *In Congress: Creating a Letter of Marque*

### **The Form of the Sea Letters and Passports, to be given, to Ships and Vessels, according to the twenty-eighth Article**

**To all who shall See these Presents Greeting: It is hereby made known, that Leave and Permission has been given to \_\_\_\_\_ Master and Commander of the Ship called \_\_\_\_\_ of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_. Burthen \_\_\_\_\_ Tons or thereabouts, lying at present in the Port and Haven of \_\_\_\_\_ and bound for \_\_\_\_\_ and laden with \_\_\_\_\_ after that his Ship has been visited, and before Sailing, he shall make Oath before the officers who have the Jurisdiction of maritime Affairs, that the said Ship belongs to one or more of the Subjects of \_\_\_\_\_ the Act whereof shall be put at the End of these Presenter as likewise that he will keep and cause to be kept by his Crew, on board, the Marine ordinances and Regulations, and enter in the proper Office a List signed and witnessed of the Crew of his Ship, and of all who shall embark, on board her, whom he shall not take on board without the Knowledge and Permission of the officers of the Marine; and in every Port and Haven where he shall enter with his Ship, he shall show this present Leave to the officers and Judges of the Marine, and shall give a faithfull account to them of what passed and was done during his Voyage, and he shall carry the Colours, Arms, and Ensigns of \_\_\_\_\_ during his Voyage.**

**In Witness whereof, We have Signed these Presents, and put the Seal of our Arms thereunto, and caused the Same to be countersigned by \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ the Day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### **The Form of the Act containing the Oath**

**We \_\_\_\_\_ of the Admiralty of \_\_\_\_\_ do certify that \_\_\_\_\_ Master of the Ship named in the above Passport, hath taken the oath mentioned therein.**

**Done at \_\_\_\_\_ the Day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The Form of the Certificate to be required of and to be given by the Magistrates or  
Officers  
of the Customs of the Town and Port in their respective Towns and Ports  
to the Ships and Vessels, which Sail from thence,  
according to the Directions of the 28th Article of this present Treaty**

**We, \_\_\_\_\_ Magistrates (or officers of the Customs) of the Town and Port of  
\_\_\_\_\_ do certify and attest, that on the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of the Month of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Year  
of our Lord personally appeared before Us, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and declared by a  
Solemn Oath, that the Ship or Vessel called \_\_\_\_\_ of about \_\_\_\_\_ Tons whereof of  
\_\_\_\_\_ his usual Place of Habitation, is Master or Commander, does rightfully and  
properly belong to him and others Subjects of \_\_\_\_\_ and to them alone: That She is  
now bound from the Port of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Port of \_\_\_\_\_ laden with the Goods  
and Merchandizes hereunder particularly described and enumerated, that is to Say,**

**In Witness whereof we have Signed this Certificate, and Sealed it with the Seal of our  
office. Given the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the Month of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*Source:*

*Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1779*

Edited from the original records in the Library of Congress by Worthington Chauncey Ford; Chief, Division of Manuscripts. Washington, DC : Government Printing Office, 1905.